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## LI SCHOOL BOARDS WORKING TOGETHER FOR FUNDING REFORM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**With a new administration in Albany promising dramatic increases in school aid and substantial property tax relief, Long Island education and business leaders are working together in unprecedented collaboration to demand genuine, lasting reform of New York's public education funding system.**

**"The time is ripe for the education community and the business community to make clear, simple, unapologetic demands about what we need for our schools," Long Island Association President Matthew T. Crosson told the more than 200 school board members and district officials gathered Wednesday at the Hilton Huntington to assess current reality in the region's schools, share cost-saving strategies and coordinate advocacy efforts.**

**Priorities for state funding reform under consideration are:**

- **Provide property tax relief to Long Islanders**
- **Increase direct state aid for public education**
- **Adjust aid formulas to recognize differences based on demographic, achievement and wealth data, and regional cost differences**
- **Guarantee a minimum state share of revenue for every district**
- **Introduce multi-year aid appropriations to enhance planning**
- **Consolidate and simplify aid formulas**

**These were drawn from a report debunking persistent myths about Long Island school spending that closely examines wide gaps in student experiences in the region's most-wealthy and least-wealthy school districts.**

**Part of the LIA's *Innovate* Long Island project and based on the most recent, verified data available on the costs, financing and outcomes of Long Island public education, the report concludes Long Island schools are among the best in the country and while costs are on par with schools statewide when adjusted for regional cost differences, property taxpayers here foot a much larger portion of the bill than elsewhere.**

**"We must reduce our region's disproportionate over-reliance on property taxes or we will undermine the public support that is so critical for the continued success of our schools," said Susan Bergtraum, President of the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association, co-sponsor of the event with the Suffolk County School Superintendents Association and the Nassau County Council of School Superintendents.**